Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method in a data processing system for changing a user status in a messaging program, the method comprising:

identifying a number of current conversations open for a user in the messaging program; [[and]]

setting the user status to busy if the number of current conversations for the user equals a threshold; ~~threshold.~~

responsive to receiving a message while the user status is busy, saving the message without presenting the message;

responsive to the user status changing to available, presenting a saved message; and

responsive to a sender of the saved message being unavailable, presenting an indication that the sender is unavailable.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

setting the user status to available if the user status is currently set to busy and if the number of current conversations is less than the threshold.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the threshold is set by a user input.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the messaging program is an instant messaging program.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the identifying step is initiated when a user input creating a new conversation is received.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the identifying step is initiated when a user input terminating a conversation is received.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, [[7,]] wherein the saved message is selected from a set of saved messages based on a first-in-first-out basis.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8 further comprising:

initiating a new current conversation with the sender of ~~a user that originated~~ the saved message.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising:

continuing to present additional saved messages and initiating new conversations as long as the user status is available.

11. (Currently Amended) A data processing system for changing a user status in a messaging program, the data processing system comprising:

identifying means for identifying a number of current conversations open for a user in the messaging program; [[and]]

setting means for setting the user status to busy if the number of current conversations for the user equals a threshold; ~~threshold.~~

saving means, responsive to receiving a message while the user status is busy, for saving the message without presenting the message;

presenting means, responsive to the user status changing to available, for presenting a saved message; and

second presenting means, responsive to a sender of the saved message being unavailable, for presenting an indication that the sender is unavailable.

12. (Original) The data processing system of claim 11, wherein the setting means is a first setting means and further comprising:

second setting means for setting the user status to available if the user status is currently set to busy and if the number of current conversations is less than the threshold.

13. (Original) The data processing system of claim 11, wherein the threshold is set by a user input.

14. (Original) The data processing system of claim 11, wherein the messaging program is an instant messaging program.

15. (Original) The data processing system of claim 11, wherein the identifying means is initiated when a user input creating a new conversation is received.

16. (Original) The data processing system of claim 11, wherein the identifying means is initiated when a user input terminating a conversation is received.

17. (Currently Amended) A computer program product in a computer readable medium for changing a user status in a messaging program, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for identifying a number of current conversations open for a user in the messaging program; [[and]]

second instructions for setting the user status to busy if the number of current conversations for the user equals a threshold; ~~threshold.~~

third instructions, responsive to receiving a message while the user status is busy, for saving the message without presenting the message;

fourth instructions, responsive to the user status changing to available, for presenting a saved message; and

fifth instructions, responsive to a sender of the saved message being unavailable, for presenting an indication that the sender is unavailable.

18. (Original) The computer program product of claim 17, wherein the second instructions includes:

sub-instructions for setting the user status to available if the user status is currently set to busy and if the number of current conversations is less than the threshold.

19. (Original) The computer program product of claim 17, wherein the threshold is set by a user input.

20. (Original) The computer program product of claim 17, wherein the messaging program is an instant messaging program.

21. (Original) The computer program product of claim 17, wherein the first instructions is initiated when a user input creating a new conversation is received.

22. (Original) The computer program product of claim 17, wherein the first instructions is initiated when a user input terminating a conversation is received.

23. (Currently Amended) A data processing system comprising:

a bus system;

a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the memory includes a set of instructions; and a processing unit connected to the bus system, wherein [[a]] the processing unit executes [[a]] the set of instructions to identify a number of current conversations open for a user in [[the]] a messaging program; [[and]] set a user status to busy if the number of current conversations for the user equals a threshold; ~~threshold.~~ save a message without presenting the message in response to receiving the message while the user status is busy; present a saved message in response to the user status changing to available; and present an indication that a sender of the saved message is unavailable in response to the sender being unavailable.